CONFIDENTIAL.] **REPORT** [No. 47 of 1881.

ON

# NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

## Week ending the 19th November 1881.

### LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

| No. | Names of newspapers. | Place of publication. | Number of subscribers. | Dates of papers received and examined for the week. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **Bengali.** | | | |
| | *Monthly.* | | | |
| 1 | "Bhárat Shramajíví" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 2,100 | |
| 2 | "Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ... ... | Comercolly ... | 175 | Ashwin, 1288 B.S. |
| | *Fortnightly.* | | | |
| 3 | "Sansodhiní" ... ... ... | Chittagong ... | 600 | 6th November 1881. |
| 4 | "Purva Pratidhwani" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | 14th ditto. |
| | *Weekly.* | | | |
| 5 | "Ananda Bazar Patriká" ... ... | Calcutta ... | 700 | 14th ditto. |
| 6 | "Arya Darpan" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | 18th ditto. |
| 7 | "Bhárat Bandhu" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | 15th ditto. |
| 8 | "Bhárat Mihir" ... ... ... | Mymensing ... | 671 | 8th ditto. |
| 9 | "Bengal Advertiser" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 2,000 | |
| 10 | "Bardwán Sanjívaní" ... ... ... | Burdwan ... | 296 | 15th ditto. |
| 11 | "Cháruvártá" ... ... ... | Sherepore, Mymensing | ..... | |
| 12 | "Dacca Prakásh" ... ... ... | Dacca ... | 350 | 13th ditto. |
| 13 | "Dút" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | ..... | |
| 14 | "Education Gazette" ... ... ... | Hooghly ... | 745 | 18th ditto. |
| 15 | "Halisahar Prakáshiká" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | ..... | 12th ditto. |
| 16 | "Hindu Ranjiká" ... ... ... | Beauleah, Rájsháhye... | 200 | 16th ditto. |
| 17 | "Mediní" ... ... ... | Midnapore ... | ..... | |
| 18 | "Murshidábád Patriká" ... ... ... | Berhampore ... | 487 | |
| 19 | "Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | |
| 20 | "Navavibhákar" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 850 | 14th ditto. |
| 21 | "Paridarshak" ... ... ... | Sylhet ... | ..... | |
| 22 | "Pratikár" ... ... ... | Berhampore ... | 275 | |
| 23 | "Rajshahye Samvád" ... ... ... | Beauleah ... | ..... | |
| 24 | "Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ... ... | Kakiniá, Rungpore ... | 250 | 17th ditto. |
| 25 | "Sádháraní" ... ... ... | Chinsurah ... | 500 | 30th October & 6th & 13th Nov. 1881. |
| 26 | "Sahachar" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 500 | 16th November 1881. |
| 27 | "Som Prakásh" ... ... ... | Changripottá,24-Perghs. | ..... | 14th ditto. |
| 28 | "Sudhákar" ... ... ... | Mymensing ... | ..... | |
| 39 | "Sulabha Samáchár" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 4,000 | 12th ditto. |
| 30 | "Sríhatta Prakásh" ... ... ... | Sylhet ... | 440 | |
| 31 | "Tripurá Vártávaha" ... ... ... | Commillah ... | ..... | |
| | *Daily.* | | | |
| 32 | "Samvád Prabhákar" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 700 | 11th to 17th November 1881. |
| 33 | "Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ... ... | Ditto ... | 300 | 12th to 18th ditto. |
| 34 | "Samáchár Chandriká" ... ... | Ditto ... | 625 | 14th to 18th ditto. |
| 35 | "Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ... ... | Ditto ... | 500 | 14th to 18th ditto. |
| 36 | "Prabhátí" ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | |
| 37 | "Samáchár Sudáhbarsan" ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | |
| | **English and Urdu.** | | | |
| | *Weekly.* | | | |
| 38 | "Urdu Guide" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | 365 | 12th November 1881. |
| | **Hindi.** | | | |
| | *Weekly.* | | | |
| 49 | "Behár Bandhu" ... ... ... | Bankipore, Patna ... | 500 | 10th ditto. |
| 40 | "Bhárat Mitra" ... ... ... | Calcutta ... | 500 | 10th ditto. |
| 41 | "Sár Sudhánidhi" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | 200 | 7th ditto. |
| 42 | "Uchit Baktá" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | 12th ditto. |
| | **Persian.** | | | |
| | *Weekly.* | | | |
| 43 | "Jám-Jahán-numá" ... ... ... | Ditto ... | 250 | 11th ditto. |
| | **Urdu.** | | | |
| | *Weekly.* | | | |
| 44 | "Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat" ... ... | Ditto ... | ..... | |
| | **Assamese.** | | | |
| | *Monthly.* | | | |
| 45 | "Assam Vilásiní" ... ... ... | Sibsagar ... | ..... | |

## Public Administration.

Sadharani, October 30th, 1881.

Extension of local self-government.

The *Sádháraní*, of the 30th October, received in this office on the 15th instant, contains two articles expository of the recent Resolution of Government on the extension of local self-government among the people of this country. The Editor cordially approves of the sentiments expressed in the Resolution, and hopes that Sir Ashley Eden, who possesses a thorough knowledge of native wants and aspirations, will in this matter co-operate with the Government of India.

Sadharani.

Villages in the mofussil; the condition of roads.

2. The same paper remarks with regret that the blessings of British rule are mostly confined to cities and towns, and seldom reach the villages in the mofussil. There are indeed laws in force having for their object the improvement of these localities, but practically little benefit is reaped by the inhabitants. To refer to one matter out of many, the condition of roads is really deplorable. Most villages have no roads worthy of the name, and become simply impassable during the rainy season, and yet the road cess is regularly paid by the inhabitants. The question therefore that is constantly asked by them is—How is the money which is raised from the cess expended?

Sadharani, November 6th, 1881.

Post Office Savings Banks.

3. The same paper of the 6th November thanks Lord Ripon and Major Baring for their scheme of Post Office Savings Banks. The Editor would take this opportunity of remarking that, as the introduction of the new system will throw an additional amount of labour upon the already overworked officials in the subordinate ranks of the Postal Department, they should be granted some increase of pay.

Sansodhini, November 6th, 1881.

Tehsildars in khas mehals—a suggestion.

4. The *Sansodhiní*, of the 6th November, shows how in the khas mehals of Government the collection of rent can be more cheaply performed than under the existing arrangements. The cost is at present fixed at a limit not exceeding ten per cent. of the collections. The work, however, could be more cheaply performed by introducing into the khas mehals the system which obtains in respect of mehals under Government management or of other *kharija* mehals. This would only necessitate the employment of a few extra *towji* clerks, and the arrangement would not be likely to cause inconvenience to the tenants. The proposal now made is not new, having been once before made by a former Collector of Chittagong, Mr. Currie. Its advantages are so patent that, if adopted, it will doubtless lead to an annual saving of 15 to 16 thousand rupees.

Bharat Mihir, November 8th, 1881.

The English character—a puzzle.

5. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 8th November, referring to the adverse criticisms which have been evoked in the Anglo-Indian Press by Lord Ripon's proposal to extend the sphere of local self-government among the people of India, wonders at the diversity of feelings and views noticed among Englishmen—a diversity so striking as might lead one to doubt whether the Editor of the *Englishman* Newspaper really belongs to the same race as Lord Ripon. We extract the following passages from the article under notice :—If there is any diversity in human character, any mysterious puzzle in human disposition, that diversity and that puzzle re-eminently exist in the English national character. If any one would see the splendour of a night bright with a full moon and the gloom of a dark night at the same time, if any one would see heaven and hell painted on the same canvas, let him study the character of the English as a nation.

We shall not, in support of our position, refer to the occurrences recorded in English history, to facts connected with the lives of eminent Englishmen, or to events which mark the rise and fall of a nation, but shall merely advert to the peculiarities which distinguish the everyday life of Englishmen who wield our destinies. Will it be readily believed that the nation which has enthroned equality and liberty has really produced Dalhousie, the annexationist, or Lytton, the father of the Press Law? Does any one feel inclined to believe that the tyrannical indigo and tea planters belong to the race the touch of whose hand gave liberty to the slave? Do Europeans who have gained notoriety by causing the rupture of native spleens really come from the race which produced the Marshmans and the Hares of holy memory? And lastly, do the pious Lord Ripon and the native-hating Editor of the *Englishman* belong to the same race?

6. Referring to the recent riots at Multan, the same paper asks Sir Robert Egerton to make a searching enquiry into the causes of these disagreeable riots, and to inflict punishment where punishment may be due. The subject of religion is one which can excite even a very quiet people, and lead to very grave results. BHARAT MIHIR, November 8th, 1881.

The Multan riots.

7. From his own experience as a Commissioner of a mofussil municipality, the Editor of the same paper is able to testify that the present constitution of municipalities in this country is such as to leave all real power of action in the hands of the Chairman or his representative. The Commissioners have no independence, and are afraid of incurring the displeasure of the local authorities. If it is really desired to give effect to Lord Ripon's scheme, the elective system should be introduced into all municipalities, and the people allowed to elect at least two-thirds of the entire number of Commissioners. BHARAT MIHIR.

Government Resolution on local self-government.

8. The same paper, after referring to the contempt expressed by Mr. Whitley Stokes regarding the criticisms published in Anglo-Indian newspapers of the work of the Legislative Department, observes that such disregard of public opinion on the part of the highest officials in the land can only be due to the unhealthy atmosphere of Indian official life. The Editor, however, would not fail to represent his views to Government respecting the legislative enactments passed by it. The following are then referred to as defects in the present Criminal Procedure Code:— BHARAT MIHIR.

The Criminal Procedure Code.

*Sections* 273 *and* 274.—Appeals are not allowed against the sentence of imprisonment for one month passed by a Magistrate holding first class powers, or against one extending over three months, if passed after a summary trial. Now it is not all first class Magistrates who possess long experience or the necessary judicial frame of mind. It is notorious that many of them purposely award light punishments that they might thus make the preferring of an appeal impossible. The Editor is aware that in Mymensingh a native gentleman was once thus compelled to undergo imprisonment because he had incurred the displeasure of a Deputy Magistrate. In such cases the District Judge has no power to direct the release of the defendant on bail, while by the time the order is obtained from the High Court, the latter, it often happens, has served out his sentence; nor is it every defendant who possesses the necessary means for resorting to the High Court.

*Sections* 295, 296, *and* 197.—It is not easy to see why the Sessions Judge, who already possesses the power of setting aside sentences of imprisonment for even two years which may be passed by Magistrates, should not be authorized to quash one of imprisonment for seven days passed by the

same authority. What is required is that there should be provision for appeal against every sentence of imprisonment, however small the duration thereof may be. Sections 491 and 600 of the Code are open to similar objections. Section 518 should be more clearly worded. Lastly, there should be provision for appeal on behalf of the heirs of a defendant who may have died in jail.

SULABHA SAMACHAR, November 12th, 1881.

Lord Ripon's speech at Delhi.

9. Referring to the encouragement of private enterprise in the construction of railways in this country and other popular features of Lord Ripon's policy, the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 12th November, observes with gratification that His Excellency is about to inaugurate an improved system of administration in place of the old and effete one. He is fortunate in having as his colleagues Major Baring and a few other able officials. His Excellency's public utterances breathe an air of sincerity and moral earnestness which is truly noble.

HALISAHAR PRAKASHIKA, November 12th, 1881.

Education of Eurasians.

10. The *Halisahar Prakáshiká*, of the 12th November, condemns the arrangements which have been recently sanctioned by Lord Ripon for the education of Eurasian children. The establishment and maintenance from the public funds of separate schools for the benefit of a small section of the community is objectionable in principle, and in the present case the measure will only have the effect of widening the gulf which already separates the Eurasian from the native. While the masses in this country are steeped in ignorance for want of the means of education, there is no reason why costly arrangements should be made by the State for the separate instruction of the small number of Eurasian children of a school-going age. In justice, the Eurasians can only claim an equal share of educational advantages with natives.

BHARAT MITRA, November 10th, 1881.

The same subject.

11. The *Bhárat Mitra* makes similar observations on the same subject.

BEHAR BANDHU, November 10th, 1881.

Civilians as Munsifs.

12. The *Behar Bhandhu*, of the 10th November, remarks, in reference to the employment of certain Civilians as Munsifs, that this measure will greatly benefit suitors who will now be saved from a good deal of harassment and expense.

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, November 14th, 1881.

Eurasian education.

13. Writing on the subject of Eurasian education, the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 14th November, remarks that the fact that 5,000 Eurasian lads of a school-going age are growing up in ignorance is one for which their parents themselves are responsible. Was there anything to prevent these boys from attending the existing schools? "They have a false notion of superiority," says Government, "which disinclines them for study in the same school with native lads." Now, if they would attach so much importance to their position, they must bear the consequences, and it does not behove Government to provide them with separate schools from the public revenues. The fact that 5,000 Eurasian lads are growing up in ignorance is considered by Government as a disgrace to it. But what of the fact that the masses in this couatry are steeped in ignorance, and that for no fault of their own? Now, if any separate arrangement is to be made for the education of Eurasian lads, it is proper that the European community should pay at least a portion of the necessary cost.

SADHARANI, November 13th, 1881.

Local self-government.

14. The *Sádhárani*, of the 13th November, writing about the transfer of police expenditure from Municipalities to the State, says that the measure is based upon one of the clearest principles of administrative science, namely, that the lives and properties of a people ought to be protected, not by the people themselves, but by their rulers, and thanks Lord Ripon for giving effect to a

principle which should have been recognized long before. This transfer of expenditure will relieve municipalities of a very heavy charge, which left little to be spent upon such substantial works as the making of good roads, clearance of jungle, sanitary improvement, grant of medical aid to the poor, &c. Education, which may be said to have become a supreme necessity in India, will also receive more encouragement. And all this will be better done, not only because there will be more money to devote to them, but because the municipalities which will do them will be better constituted. The writer speaks of only one evil as likely to follow from the change. He fears that the police, which, as servants of the people themselves, tyrannises so insolently over them, may become still more tyrannical when its services are transferred from the people to the State. He trusts, however, that the chief ruling authorities and district officers will keep an eye upon the conduct of the police.

Constitution of District Boards.

15. Writing about the proposed reconstruction of District Boards, the same paper says that District Boards, properly constituted, will be able to do much useful work. At present District Education Committees have a merely nominal existence, although there is much useful and necessary work, such as selection of good school-books, pathsala teachers, &c., which can be well done by them alone, but which is now ill done, because done on patronising principles by individual officers of the Education Department. If the superintendence of education be placed in the hands of the District Boards, there will be a considerable change for the better. It is feared, however, that the District Boards will not be able to do much useful work in any way, if their members are selected not by the people themselves, but by the district officers. The nominees of Magistrates cannot be expected to possess that independence of character which alone can convert the present useless Boards into really efficient working bodies. It is strongly urged that each town or village should be allowed to elect a member; and if the Boards consist of members so elected, there cannot be much objection to their being presided over by the magisterial officers.

SADHARANI, November 13th, 1881.

Salaries of Government clerks.

16. In noticing with approbation the proposal made by the Government of India to increase the salaries of peons, chaprassies, orderlies, &c., the same paper thinks that it would have been well if Lord Ripon and his advisers had included in their order those poor but respectable natives who work very hard as clerks in Government offices, but who receive salaries not sufficient for their maintenance. Now that some action has been taken in the matter of small salaries, it would be doing nothing more than what is absolutely necessary, and to the interest of Government itself, to give an increase of Rs. 5 to all Government clerks who now receive Rs. 15 and 20 a month.

SADHARANI.

Eurasian education.

17. In an article on the Resolution of the Government of India on European and Eurasian education, the same paper says that that Resolution is wholly unworthy of Lord Ripon. Education is a good thing, and there can be no objection in a civilised community to educating any section of it. But the proposal to establish separate schools for Eurasians means that Eurasians are beings of an order wholly different from, and generically superior to, Hindus and Musulmans. The latter may be worse specimens of humanity than the former; but in bland boyhood they are all alike, and in boyhood they may associate with each other at school with perfect safety. To say that, as Christians, Eurasians cannot be sent to schools where Christianity is *not* taught, and to say this in the face of the fact that Hindu and Musulman boys *are* sent to missionary schools where Christianity *is*

SADHARANI.

taught, is simply to declare a partiality for Christianity, and consequently for people professing that faith. That Eurasians have a claim upon the grateful consideration of Government, because their ancestors came out to India to do a sort of work which they alone could have done, is a meaningless statement, because those ancestors were paid for what they did, often made large fortunes in India, and ultimately became poor from causes over which none but they had any control. Education is being seriously interfered with in the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab, either because educational expenditure has become very high, or because high education is not needed in those places. If the first is the real reason, how can the proposed expenditure on Eurasian education be justified? If the second, why should Eurasians require high education? To say that Eurasians cannot, like natives, take to agriculture or any menial work, is to declare that Natives and Eurasians are two distinct races, with superiority of every kind on the side of the latter. Again, why should the public revenues of India be made to pay for separate schools for a particular class of men? The whole scheme, in fact, is based upon considerations of partiality for the Eurasian community, and indicates a desire on the part of Government that no sympathy should spring up between Natives and Europeans. The measure adopted by Lord Ripon will be a blot on his administration, and may give rise to very serious consequences in the future.

SADHARANI, November 13th, 1881.

The annual exodus to Simla.

18. The same paper urges the usual objections against the Simla exodus, and observes, with reference to the proposal to locate certain offices permanently at that place, (1) that the permanent location of these offices at Simla, besides being a source of increased expenditure, will interfere with business which is best done at its political centre, the metropolis; and (2) that the clerks in the offices which will remain throughout the year at Simla ought to receive more pay than they now receive, because the climate of that place is very trying to natives, and the necessaries and comforts of life are both very dear there.

NAVAVIBHAKAR, November 14th, 1881.

Oppression of the poor and spread of education.

19. The *Navavibhákar*, of 14th November, referring to the many cases of oppression of the poor by the rich and the powerful, including the Police and Government officials, which occur in this country, says that oppression of this kind is principally owing to the people's ignorance of the law, and suggests that it may be prevented *first*, by educating the mass and explaining to them, by means of books and newspapers written in easy language, such of the laws of the country as it is their interest to know; and, *secondly*, by organising in each district and subdivision of a district committees of the people whose object it will be to keep themselves informed of cases of oppression of every kind, and, when necessary, to bring them to the notice of the authorities. The steps that are about to be taken for the spread of primary education are expected to lead to much good in the way first indicated.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

Lord Ripon's speech at Delhi.

20. The same paper notices with great satisfaction the enunciation of Lord Ripon's administrative views in His Lordship's address to the Delhi Municipality, and infers from the tone of that address that under His Lordship's administration India will assuredly receive a fair measure of real self-government. But the success of His Lordship's policy will depend partly upon the co-operation of natives of this country.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

Native capitalists and public works.

21. Referring to the view expressed by Lord Ripon that native capitalists ought to come forward in aid of important public works, this paper says that natives have been unfitted by a long course of cowardly existence to engage in

works of enterprise, and that one way of inducing them to act as Lord Ripon desires is to call upon them to invest money in public works in the same way as they were lately called upon with such success to contribute to the Patriotic Fund. Good district officers could do much in this line, but the number of such officers are, it is feared, very few.

Navavibhakar, November 14th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on local self-government.

22. In a long article on Sir Ashley Eden's letter to the Divisional Commissioners on the subject of municipal government, the same paper says that it is characteristic of His Honor that he does not hesitate to suit his views and conduct to the political exigencies of the hour. But although His Honor has declared his intention to carry out Lord Ripon's scheme, it is clear that he really means to do very little, because he does not really share Lord Ripon's views. This is proved (1) by Sir Ashley Eden's omission of all reference to the principle of election, and (2) by the unwillingness he has expressed to curtail official influence in municipal bodies. The real cause of this unwillingness is that, if real power is transferred from the official to the non-official element in Municipal Boards, many European officials would lose their occupation. Thus, if District Boards are entrusted with real control over educational affairs, there would be no need for a highly-paid Director of Public Instruction. But Sir Ashley Eden is certainly not for abolishing such a post as that. It is clear, however, that if District Boards are not entrusted with real power, Lord Ripon's scheme will remain a mere scheme throughout. That Sir Ashley Eden is really unwilling to carry out the Viceroy's policy is also clear from the fact that he does not propose to assign to District Boards any functions which local bodies of the nature of the District Road Cess Committees and Education Committees have not performed since the time of Sir George Campbell. That the last-named committees have not done their work well is because Sir George Campbell made Civilian influence very strong in them. But inasmuch as Sir Ashley Eden does not propose to curtail that influence, it cannot be said that he really desires to confer power upon the District Boards. And this is all the more unintelligible, because His Honor himself admits that good men do not like to serve on local Boards because local Boards do not at present possess any real power. As Sir Ashley Eden's heart is not in the work, and as his health is failing, it is desirable, if Lord Ripon's scheme is not to be a failure, that the execution of that scheme should be delayed till His Honor has gone away.

Navavibhakar.

The Stamp law oppressive.

23. In another article the same paper condemns the Stamp law as being in many cases oppressive and unjust, and regrets that, with a large stamp revenue, the Government of Bengal should have ordered the imposition of heavier fines in the future in stamp cases.

Navavibhakar.

Salaries of peons, &c.

24. Lord Ripon's proposal to increase the salaries of peons, orderlies, and others, is noticed with satisfaction by the same paper.

Som Prakash, November 14th, 1881.

Post Office Savings Banks.

25. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 14th November, approves of Major Baring's proposal to open Savings Banks in Post Offices for the benefit of the poor. Such Banks are really needed, and will, when opened, supply a want and produce a healthy influence on the condition of the poor of this country. The three following provisions are, however, considered objectionable:—

(1.) If money is deposited in a Bank in the name of a woman's husband, the woman shall only be able to deposit money which has been earned or acquired by herself.

The reasons why this provision is considered objectionable is that it may not be always easy to ascertain what has been earned by a woman herself.

(2.) A person who has deposited money in the district Bank shall not be able to deposit money in the Post Office Banks.

There are many small traders who have to travel from place to place with money in their possession which they ought to be allowed to deposit in the Post Office Banks for the purposes of safety, even though they may have money in the district Bank.

(3.) If a person dies, leaving Rs. 1,000 in any Bank, the post-master may deliver the money to whoever claims it as the heir of the depositor, even in the absence of a will or a certificate.

This may give rise to frauds.

SOM PRAKASH, November 14th, 1881.

Eurasian education.

26. The same paper criticises the Government Resolution on Eurasian education as a proceeding which is calculated to intensify race antagonism in this country. It says that it is not the business of Government to provide religious instruction for any class of its subjects, and that the difficulty met with by Eurasians in consequence of the distance of schools from the places where they reside, may be removed by establishing schools for the public in general at places not far removed from Eurasian quarters, and by the Eurasians themselves engaging conveyances for their school-going children. Such schools will cost less than separate schools for Eurasians.

ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA, November 14th, 1881.

Extension of local self-government.

27. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 14th November, noticed before, after dwelling upon the advantages of local self-government, proceeds to remark that there is little likelihood of Lord Ripon's scheme proving a success until local bodies are made independent of their official Chairmen. Government should appoint some native Deputy Magistrate as Chairman of every Committee, and make him independent of the Magistrate. New laws should be passed for conferring the necessary powers.

BHARAT BANDHU, November 15th, 1881.

The Contagious Diseases Act.

28. The *Bhárat Bandhu*, of the 15th November, observes that the exemption of the native quarters of Calcutta from the operation of the Contagious Diseases Act has not been a wise measure. The Act should be therefore re-enforced in the exempted localities.

SAHACHAR, November 16th, 1881.

Sir Ashley Eden on local self-government.

29. The *Sahachar*, of the 16th November, is opposed to the idea of Sir Ashley Eden being entrusted with the task of giving effect to the scheme of local self-government which has been recently propounded by the Government of India. It is well known that His Honor does not view with favour the extension of the elective system in this country. Considering, moreover, that he will shortly lay down office, it is but proper that so important a question as that of extending self-government among natives should be left for his successor to decide. The Editor then refers to the circular issued to Divisional Commissioners by the local Government on this subject, and objects to the name "Government District Boards" which the Lieutenant-Governor would apply to the local committees. The designation "Municipal Committee" would be better. It is striking to observe that in the document under notice Sir Ashley Eden discovers for the first time that district bodies contain many useless members. This statement at any rate smacks of insincerity. The elective principle should be introduced in all municipalities, and there should be branch committees in every sub-division. The Commissioners should be empowered to choose their own Chairman.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,
*Bengali Translator.*

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